Tsunami warning system

3282. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tsunami warning expert Tad Murthy has predicted that next Tsunami would be in Arabian Sea within next sixty years;

(b) whether it is a fact that his predictions are based on the fact that Tsunami had struck alternatively in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea on three occasions in the gap of sixty years; and

(c) whether Government proposes to take necessary steps for installing warning system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) While Tsunamis of lesser intensities have occurred in the past in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea as a result of epicenter of earthquake beneath the ocean, at present there is yet no technology available any where in the world to predict earthquake.

(c) The Government is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean at the total cost of Rs. 125 crores with the following components:

- Strengthening of the existing seimological network to indicate, near real time occurrence of tsunamigenic earthquakes;
- Installation of Tsunami warning sensor close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity;
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking to validate arrival of tsunami waves at the cost;
- Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast and mapping of potential risk areas;
- Collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.

A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on a 24x7 basis. The system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007. The Tsunami Warning System is for the whole country.